

# Spring Wildflowers

OF MISSOURI STATE PARKS



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# *Spring Wildflowers*

OF  
MISSOURI STATE PARKS

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Spring 1914

MISSOURI STATE BOOKS

WINTER 1914

OF THE CHURCH

WINTER 1914

WINTER 1914

WINTER 1914

WINTER 1914



MISSOURI STATE BOOKS

## Foreword

The end to winter is marked by many signs. Snow and ice vanish when warm rains fill streams and rivers. March winds sweep away the vestiges of winter's gray as each day the sun climbs higher and the blue sky widens. This is a time when the ground is filled to capacity with moisture, causing underground buds, bulbs, and roots to become active. Serviceberry, redbud, and flowering dogwood mark the great burst of floral beauty—a fascinating outburst of spring wildflowers.

Missouri is blessed with more than 1,700 native flowering plants, many of which blossom in springtime. Such a sudden release of crimson, magenta, blue, gold, and orange, from the tiny spring beauty to the large and magnificent yellow lady-slipper, convinces us of the earth's goodness after a cold winter's gray veil. Spring wildflowers are fascinating to study deeply or simply to admire. It also is interesting to learn the use of wildflowers in food, medicine, dye, thread, clothing, and even poison.

Prairies, savannas, glades, and forests are just a few of the many diverse natural communities being restored and protected to preserve wildflowers. While not all of these wildflowers may be found in a single park and others not listed in this guide may be encountered, these common few should be the easiest to locate. This publication is intended to help add knowledge and appreciation of our state's wealth of natural treasures protected in your state park system.

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## How to Use This Booklet

The wildflowers illustrated on the following pages are our most common species, blooming throughout Missouri's natural landscapes between the departure of winter's snow and ice, and the end of May. The flowers are arranged by their colors: White flowers, which appear in the front of the booklet, are followed by yellow, pink, red, blue or violet, green, and brown flowers.

The name given each plant is that most commonly used; the scientific name of the most common species is noted in italics. Following the name is information on the flower's blooming periods and its height.

The habitat of the wildflower indicates the location where it can most likely be found. It identifies a set of environmental conditions needed for its survival: rich forests, glades, cliffs, or savannas are examples.

A general description that best distinguishes the plant succeeds the habitat description.

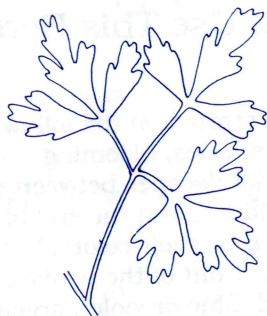
Notes about each species indicate present or past uses of the plant, or simply an interesting bit of information about the flower. Under no circumstances should anyone use a wildflower as medicine or as an edible plant based on the information in this booklet. Always consult other books as well. Please remember that wildflowers may not be picked in any state park.

The description of each wildflower contains the following terms to describe the flowers and leaves of the plant:

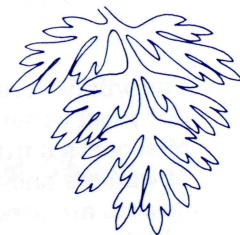
## *Leaves*



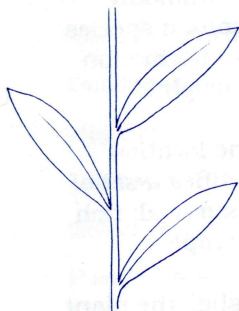
Simple



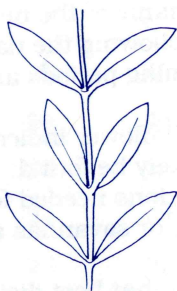
Compound



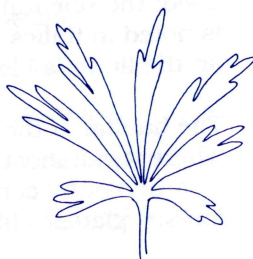
Dissected



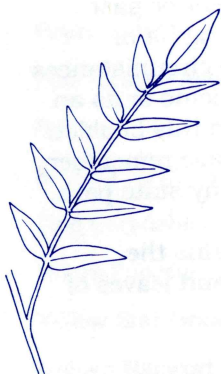
Alternate



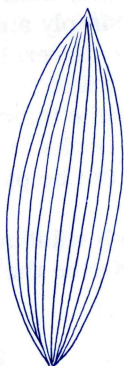
Opposite



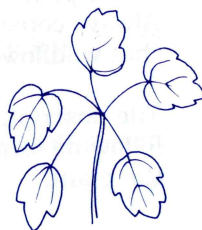
Palmate



Pinnate



Parallel Veins



Whorled

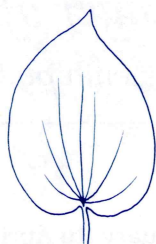
## Leaf Shapes



Ovate



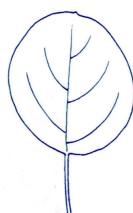
Lanceolate



Heart-Shaped

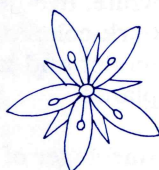
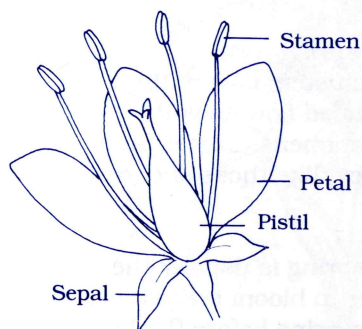


Linear

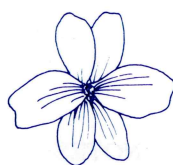


Round

## Flower



Regular



Irregular

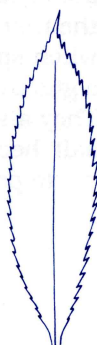
## Leaf Margins



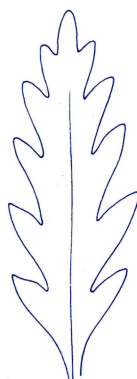
Entire



Toothed



Serrate



Lobed

## *Harbinger of Spring*

*Erigenia bulbosa*

---

BLOOMS: January to April

HEIGHT: 8"

HABITAT: Mesic bottom-land forests, especially in stream valleys.

DESCRIPTION: Harbinger of spring has umbrellalike clusters of very tiny, white, five-petaled flowers with dark-colored stamens. Leaves are tender and lacy, like those of carrot plants.

NOTES: Harbinger of spring is usually the first wildflower to bloom every year, sometimes flowering before the last of the snow is gone. Barely rising above the leaf-covered forest floor, the tiny flowers are hard to see. But when spotted, they are welcome signs that spring is on the way. They also are called 'pepper and salt' because of the pattern of white petals and dark stamens.





## *Spring Beauty*

*Claytonia virginica*

---

BLOOMS: February to May

HEIGHTS: 12"

HABITAT: Forests, savannas, and prairies

DESCRIPTION: This small flower has five white petals, usually streaked with pink, and five pink-tipped stamens. There are from five to 19 flowers on each plant, but only one or a few are open at any one time. Leaves are thin and grasslike with the stem leaves being opposite. After flowering, the sepals turn red and can be quite noticeable.

NOTES: The spring beauty is one of the most common and earliest blooming wildflowers. A favorite food of Indians, parts of the plant are edible either raw or cooked.



## *Rue Anemone*

*Anemonella thalictroides*

---

BLOOMS: March to June

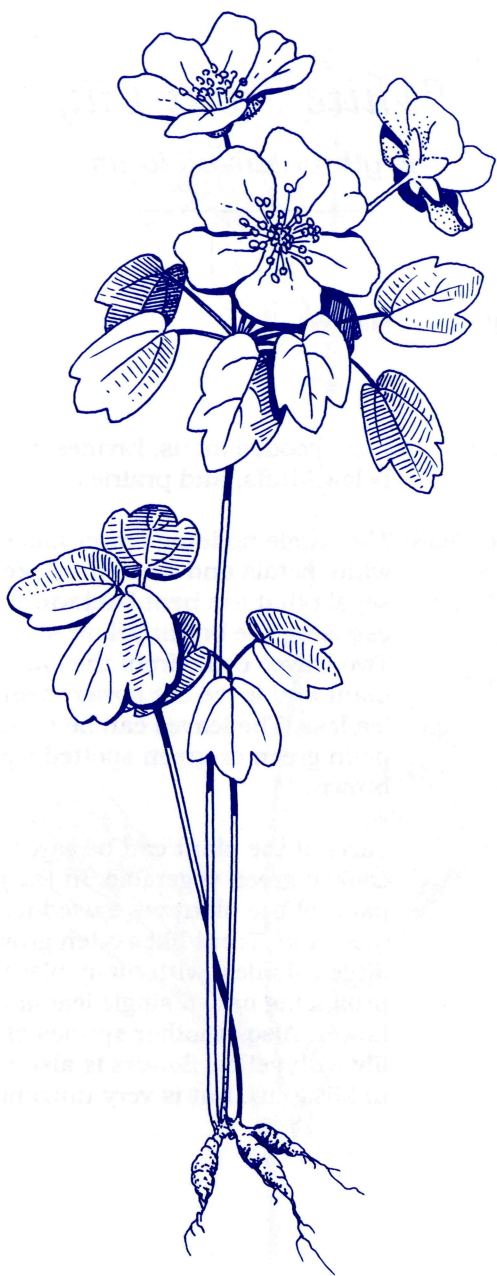
HEIGHT: 8"

HABITAT: Dry, rocky woods, savannas

DESCRIPTION: Several flowers, each one having five to ten white petallike sepals, are found on each plant. Two or three leaves occur just below the flowers, with each leaf being divided into three leaflets. Leaves also arise from the base of the plant, and these are also divided into three leaflets.

NOTES: Rue anemone is one of the longest lasting spring wildflowers. Blooming shortly after the snow finally melts, it still may be found blooming in June.





## *White Trout Lily*

*Erythronium albidum*

---

BLOOMS: March to May

HEIGHT: 6" - 8"

HABITAT: Rich wooded areas, ravines, valleys,  
below bluffs, and prairies

DESCRIPTION: The single nodding flower has three white petals and three petallike sepals that are bent backwards, exposing the bright yellow stamens. Two leaves come from the base of the plant and leave the flower stem leafless. The leaves can be either plain green or green spotted with brown.

NOTE: Parts of the plant can be eaten as a cooked green vegetable. In the past, parts of the plant were used for medicine. Trout lilies often grow in large colonies, with many plants producing only a single leaf and no flower. Also, another species of trout lily with yellow flowers is also found in Missouri, but is very uncommon.



## *Bloodroot*

*Sanguinaria canadensis*

---

BLOOMS: March to April

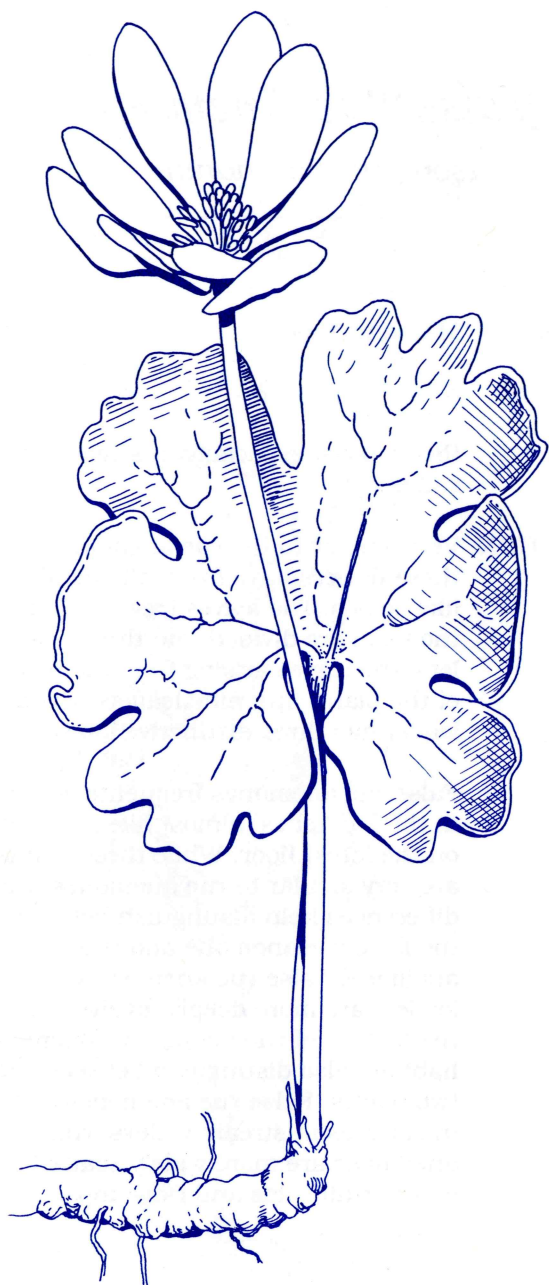
HEIGHT: 6" - 8"

HABITAT: Rich wooded areas, ravines, stream valleys, and below bluffs

DESCRIPTION: One white flower is found on each plant. Usually eight petals surround many bright yellow stamens. The flower lasts a very short time before it wilts and goes to seed. This small plant is characterized by one large leaf with three to nine lobes.

NOTES: The root of this plant contains a reddish-orange sap that resembles blood. Indians used this sap for body paint and a red dye. The roots also were used for medicine by the Indians and pioneers, but this can be dangerous since the roots are poisonous.





## *False Rue Anemone*

*Isopyrum biternatum*

---

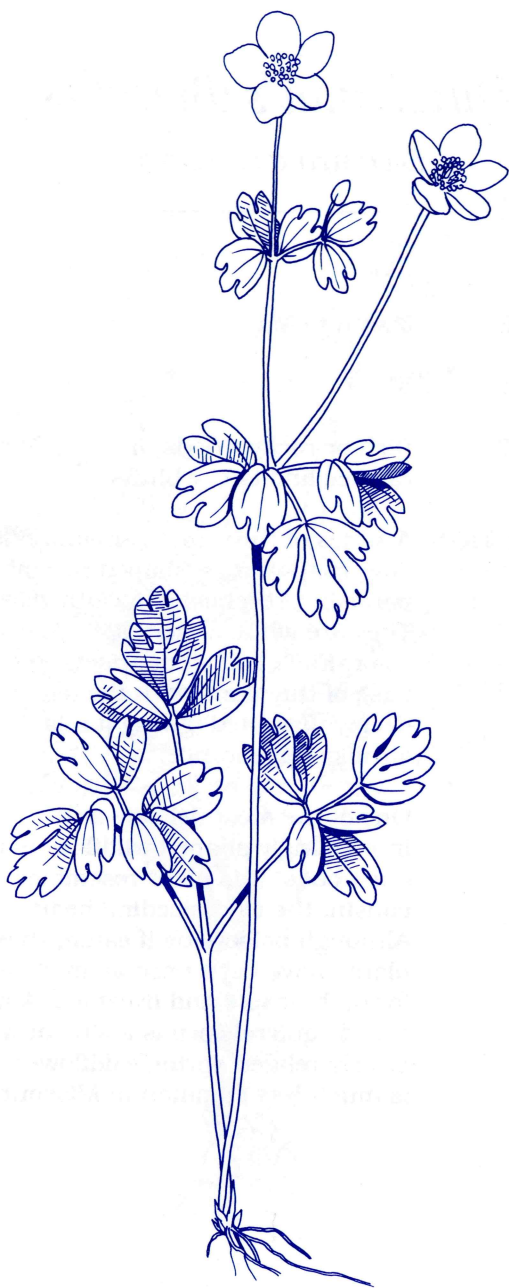
BLOOMS: March to May

HEIGHT: 8"

HABITAT: Rich woods, especially in stream valleys

DESCRIPTION: Very similar to the rue anemone, these flowers have five white petal-like sepals. The leaves located along the stem are divided into three leaflets; the leaves arising from the base of the plant, into nine leaflets. Each leaflet has three distinctive lobes.

NOTES: False rue anemones frequently grow in thick patches, almost like a carpet on the forest floor. While these plants are very similar to rue anemones, two differences help distinguish between the false rue anemone and rue anemone. False rue anemone's leaflets are more deeply divided than the leaflets of rue anemone. Different habitats also distinguish between the two plants: False rue anemones grow in colonies in stream valleys while rue anemones are more widely scattered on drier hillsides and ridge tops.



## *Dutchman's Breeches*

*Dicentra cucullaria*

---

BLOOMS: March to May

HEIGHT: 5" - 9"

HABITAT: Rich or rocky woods, frequently in ravines and below bluffs

DESCRIPTION: A series of three to 12 small, nodding flowers that are v-shaped resemble pants or breeches on a clothesline. They are white or very light pink in color. Each leaf stem arises from the base of the plant, with the leaf itself deeply dissected, giving it a lacy, fernlike appearance.

NOTES: One of the most delicate and interestingly shaped wildflowers in our woods, this plant resembles its cousin, the wild bleeding heart. Although poisonous if eaten, these plants have been used as medicine for both people and livestock. A plant called squirrel corn is a similar and closely related spring wildflower, but is much less common in Missouri.





## *May Apple*

*Podophyllum peltatum*

---

BLOOMS: March to May (the may apple fruit usually ripens in July)

HEIGHT: 18"

HABITAT: Open woods and sometimes open areas near woods

DESCRIPTION: A single large white flower, hidden under the two large umbrellalike leaves, droops from the fork in the stem. Many stems have only one leaf and do not have a flower on them.

NOTES: May apples almost always grow in groups or colonies. While the plant and root are poisonous to cattle and people, the May apple fruits are edible when ripe and yellow. These fruits can be eaten raw, made into jelly, or made into a drink. But you have to get the fruits quickly to beat the raccoons and other animals.



## *Toothwort*

*Dentaria laciniata*

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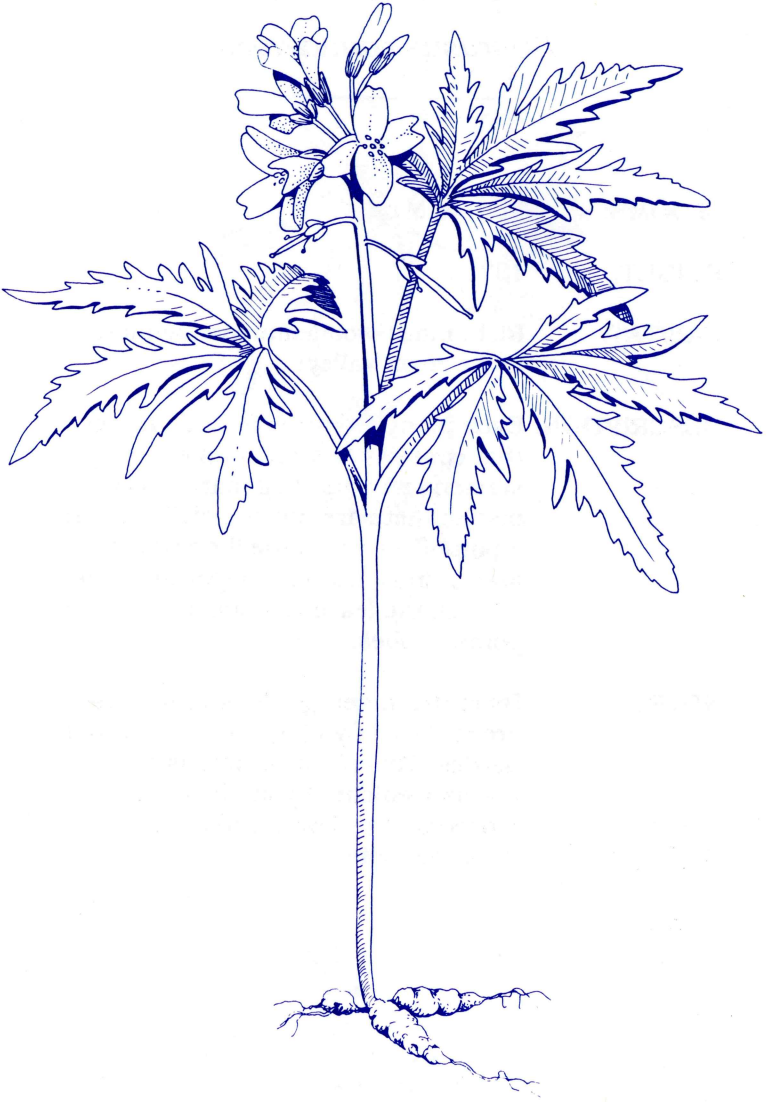
BLOOMS: March to May

HEIGHTS: 8" - 12"

HABITAT: Dry woods, bottom-land forests, rock ledges, and ravines

DESCRIPTION: The four white petals give each small flower a cross shape. Flowers are clustered at the top of the small plant. The three leaves are whorled on the stem, and each leaf has long, thin, palmately arranged lobes.

NOTES: Portions of this plant are edible, with a crisp, peppery taste. When properly prepared, it has been used as a substitute for horseradish.



## *Goldenseal*

*Hydrastis canadensis*

---

BLOOMS: April to May

HEIGHT: 12"

HABITAT: Rich, moist wooded areas, ravines,  
and stream valleys

DESCRIPTION: Each plant produces a single flower that consists of numerous white stamens surrounding many green pistils; there are not petals. There are a pair of leaves on the flowering stem and a single leaf on a separate stem, with all the leaves having five to nine pointed lobes.

NOTES: By midsummer, goldenseal flowers are replaced by clusters of bright red berries. This plant is famous for its use as medicine by Indians and pioneers. A yellow dye also was made from the roots.





## *Pussy's Toes*

*Antennaria plantaginifolia*

---

BLOOMS: April to June

HEIGHTS: 4" - 8"

HABITAT: Rocky, open woods, savannas, and prairies

DESCRIPTION: Clusters of white or pink flowers look like tiny cotton balls on top of the stem. Several small, narrow leaves alternate along the stem; larger oval-shaped leaves arise from the base of the stem.

NOTES: Pussy's toes usually grow in colonies. The large basal leaves, which stay green all winter, provide food for deer and other wildlife. Leaves, covered with dense white hairs, have a soft feeling. It has been reported that the leaves used to be chewed like gum.



## *Solomon's Seal*

*Polygonatum canaliculatum*

---

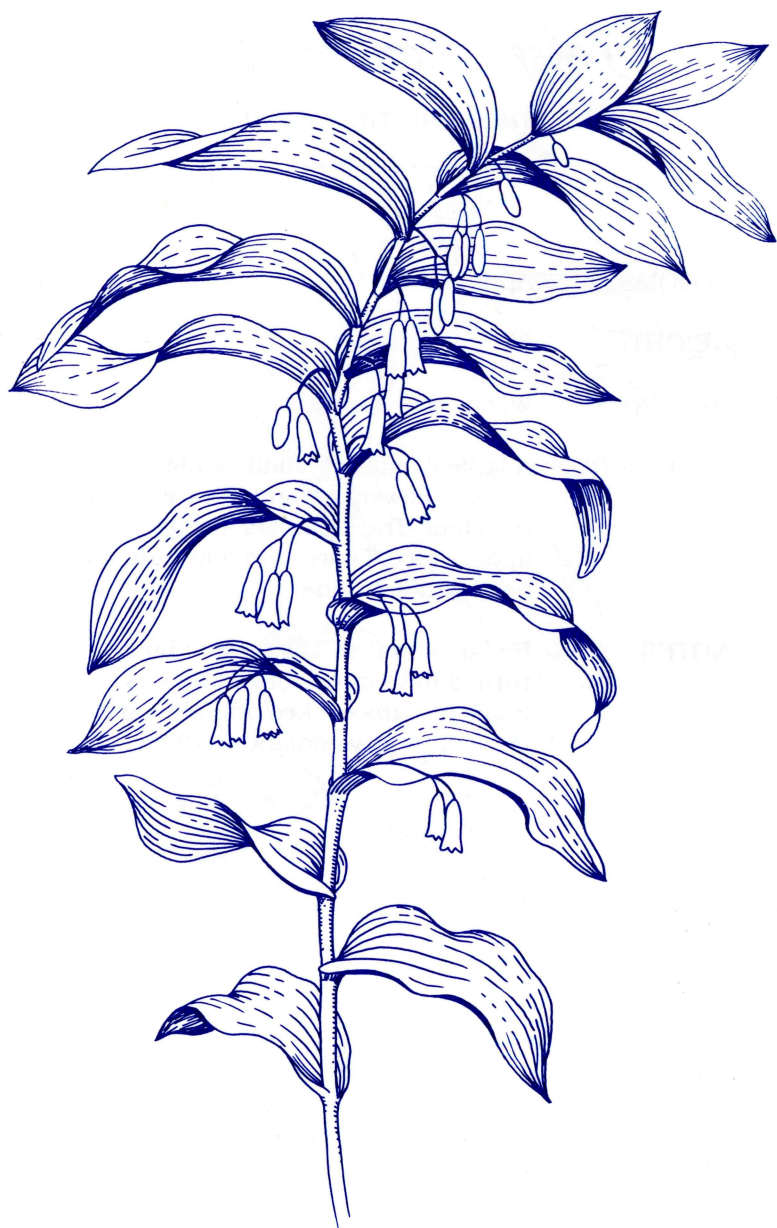
BLOOMS: April to June

HEIGHT: 24" - 48"

HABITAT: Rich woods in ravines and bottom lands, and most ledges

DESCRIPTION: Small clusters of white-greenish flowers hang down from the underside of the arched stem. The large leaves are alternate and have parallel veins.

NOTES: By late summer, the flowers have turned into dark blue berries that are eaten by wildlife. Parts of the plant are edible if properly prepared. Rootstocks also have been used in the past to treat skin irritations and to reduce the pain of arthritis.





## *False Solomon's Seal*

*Smilacina racemosa*

---

BLOOMS: April to June

HEIGHT: 36"

HABITAT: Woods and savannas

DESCRIPTION: A large cluster of small, white, starlike flowers is found at the tip of the stem. The stem has a zigzag appearance. Leaves are alternate and have parallel veins.

NOTES: By late summer, the flowers have turned into orange or red berries. Some Indians cooked and ate parts of this common woodland wildflower.



## *Beard-tongue*

*Penstemon digitalis*

---

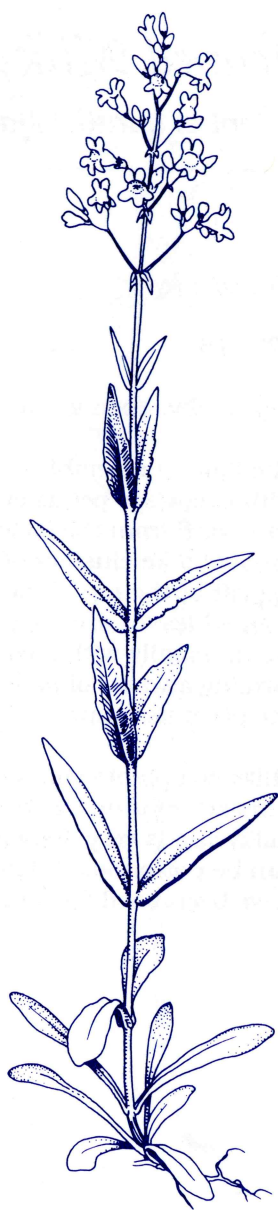
BLOOMS: April to July

HEIGHT: 36"

HABITAT: Woods, glades, prairies, and savannas

DESCRIPTION: The white or gray tubular-shaped flowers are arranged in a spikelike cluster on top of the stem. There are pointed opposite leaves all along the stem.

NOTES: One of the five stamens in each flower is modified into a hairy "tongue" that attracts insects. Indians used portions of the plant to treat toothaches.



## *Four-leaved Milkweed*

*Asclepias quadrifolia*

---

BLOOMS: May to July

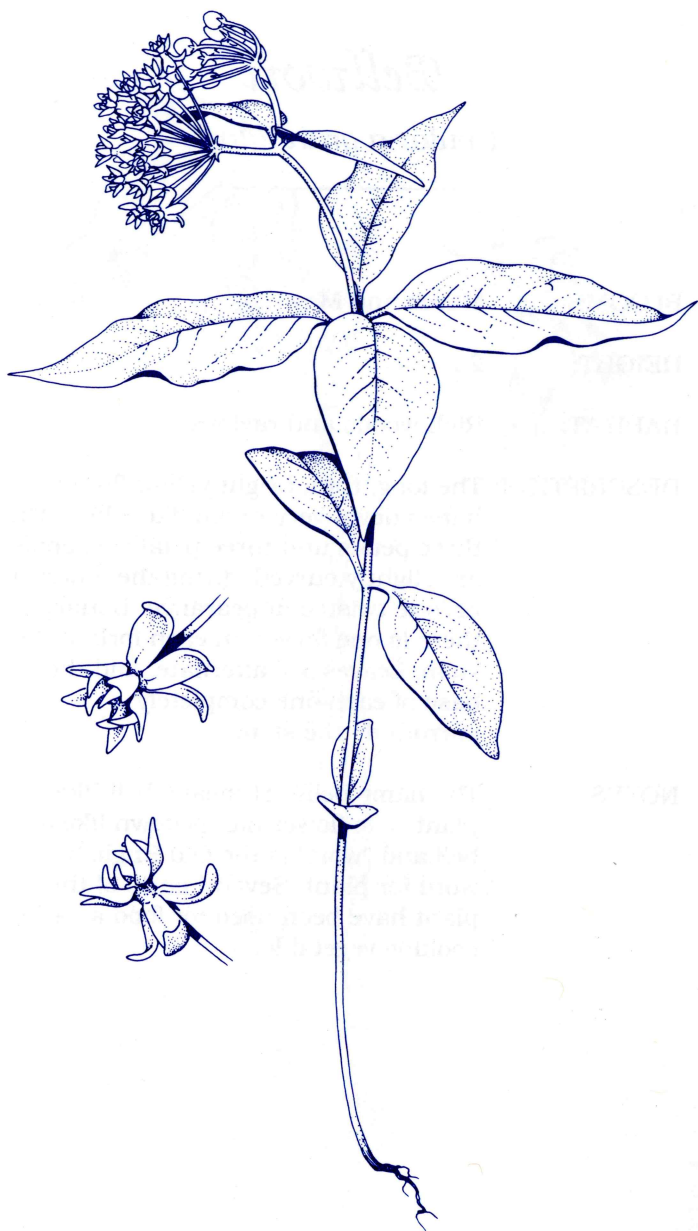
HEIGHT: 12" - 18"

HABITAT: Dry, rocky, open woods

DESCRIPTION: The flowers resemble a small star with five white petals curving backward from the base. One to three umbrellalike clusters of flowers appear at the top of the stem. The pointed leaves are opposite on the stem, usually with a couple pairs forming a whorl of four leaves, giving the plant its name.

NOTES: Milkweed plants contain a milky sap, thus accounting for their name. The milky sap is very distasteful, and it can be poisonous. Some milkweeds have been used for medicine.





## Bellwort

*Uvularia grandiflora*

---

BLOOMS: March and May

HEIGHT: 24"

HABITAT: Rich woods and ravines

DESCRIPTION: The long, thin, bright yellow flower hangs down very much like a bell. The three petals and three petallike sepals are slightly curved, giving the flower a unique twisted appearance. Usually there is one flower on each fork of the stem. Leaves are alternate, and the base of each one completely surrounds the stem.

NOTES: The name bellwort means bell-like plant. The flower hangs down like a bell and "wort" is the Old English word for plant. Several parts of the plant have been used for food as a cooking vegetable.



## *Swamp Buttercup*

*Ranunculus septentrionalis*

---

BLOOMS: March and June

HEIGHT: 8" - 10"

HABITAT: Valleys and bottom-land forests

DESCRIPTION: Buttercup plants are usually low growing and somewhat sprawling across the ground. Each flower has five shiny or waxy looking petals with many stamens. The leaves are divided into at least three parts.

NOTES: Buttercup refers to the shiny yellow color of the petals that makes the petals look like they were just "battered." Several smaller species of buttercups are found in drier upland forests.





## *Pale Corydalis*

*Corydalis flavula*

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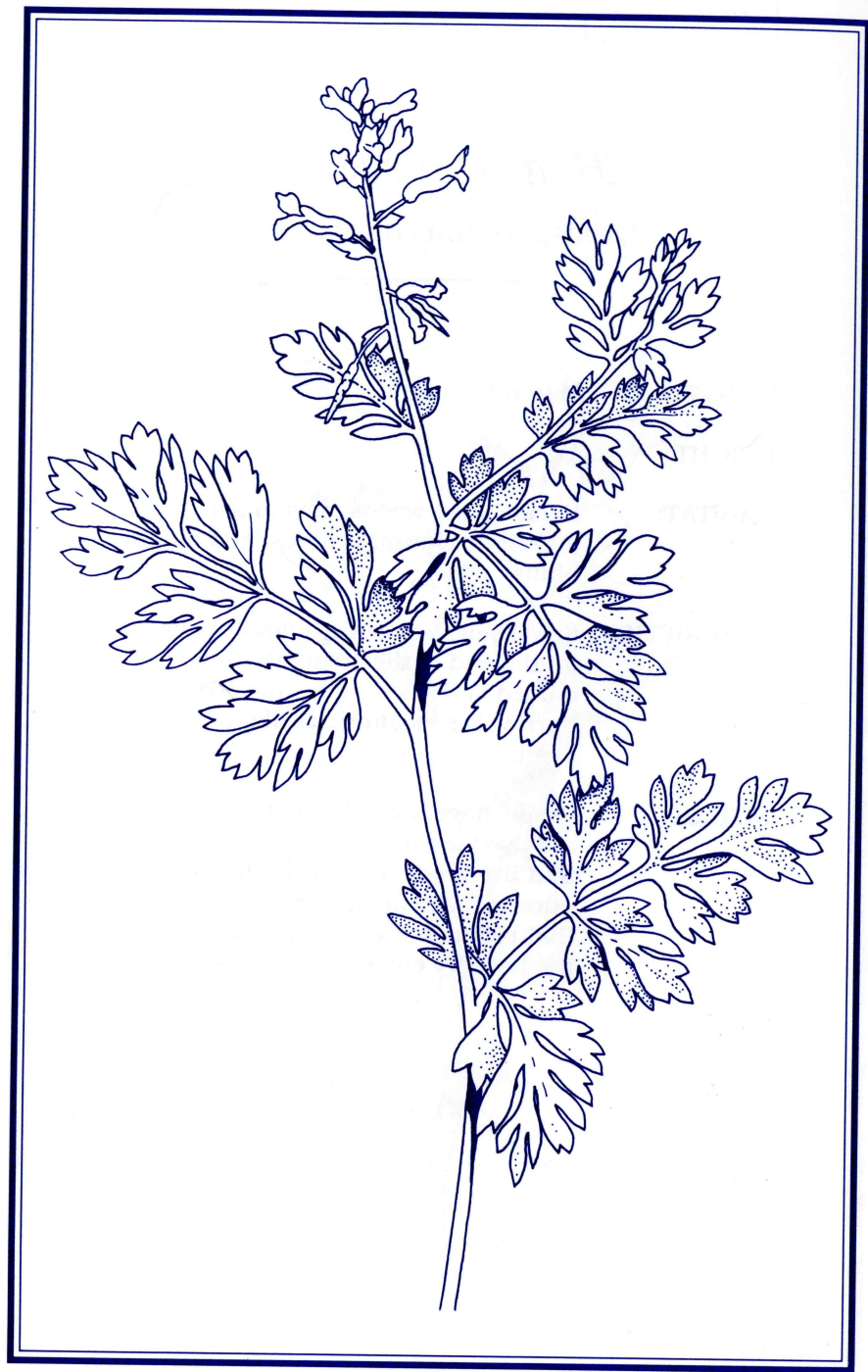
BLOOMS: March to May

HEIGHT: 8"

HABITAT: Rich woods, especially in creek valleys and below bluffs

DESCRIPTION: This small and delicate plant has tiny, pale yellow flowers that are grouped into small clusters. The stem is fastened to the middle of the flower and a small spur protrudes from the back of the flower. Leaves are deeply dissected and so have a lacy, fernlike appearance.

NOTES: Closely related to Dutchman's breeches, pale corydalis has similar leaves. As with the Dutchman's breeches, the foliage may be poisonous.



## *Hoary Puccoon*

*Lithospermum canescens*

---

- BLOOMS: March to June
- HEIGHT: 12"
- HABITAT: Rocky, open woods, savannas; limestone glades; prairies; and along bluffs
- DESCRIPTION: Small yellow or orange flowers bloom on the end of the stem, which is curved like a scorpion's tail. Thin, narrow leaves alternate along the stem.
- NOTES: People have used the roots to make a red dye for cloth. Like many plants that live on glades and bluffs, the puccoon has small, thin, hairy leaves that reduce water loss to the air in the hot, dry environment.



## *Yellow Star Grass*

*Hypoxis hirsuta*

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BLOOMS: April to June

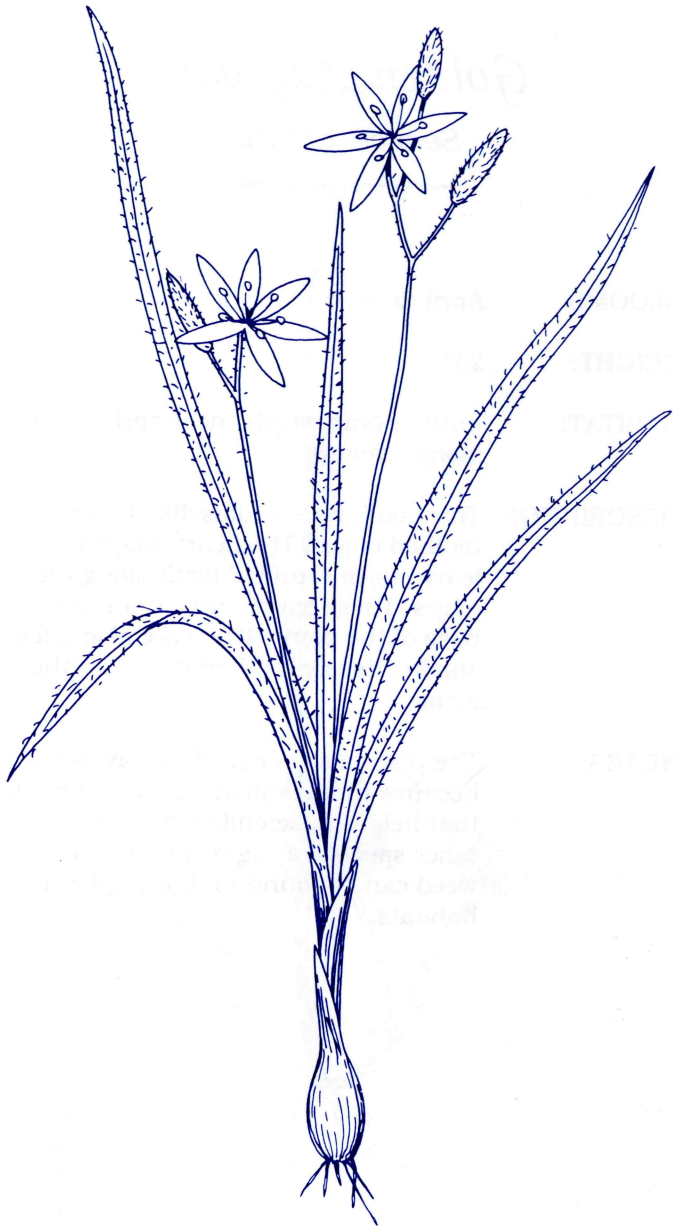
HEIGHT: 6"

HABITAT: Open, rocky woods, savannas,  
glades, and prairies

DESCRIPTION: This small, bright yellow flower has three petals and three petallike sepals that give the flower the appearance of having six petals. Long, thin grasslike leaves arise from the base of the plant.

NOTES: Yellow star grass actually is not a grass at all, but the grasslike leaves account for its name. This plant is related to the amaryllis.





## *Golden Ragwort*

*Senecio aureus*

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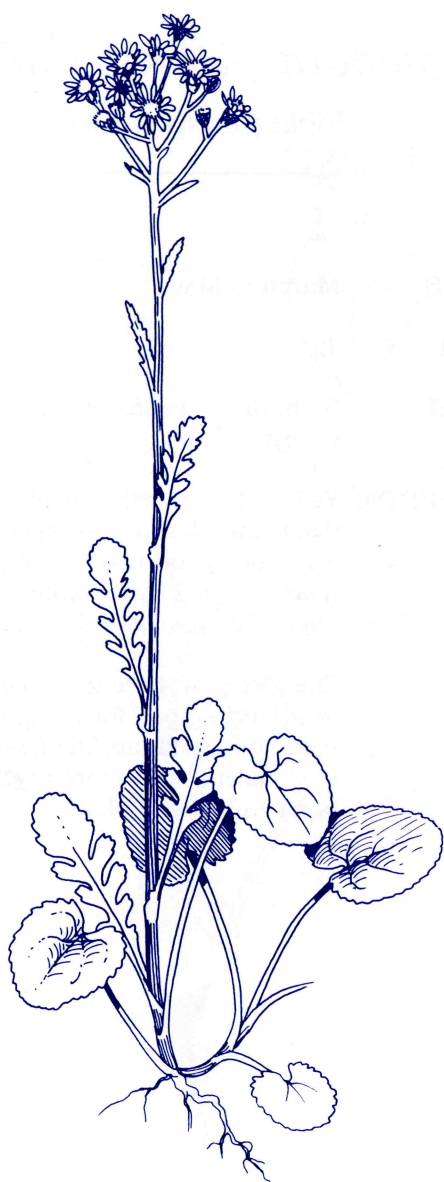
BLOOMS: April to June

HEIGHT: 24"

HABITAT: Bottom-land woods, near springs, and along streams

DESCRIPTION: The small, yellow, daisylike flower has toothed edges. The heart-shaped leaves have rounded teeth along the edges. These leaves arise from the base of the plant. There are also a few smaller deeply toothed leaves on the stem.

NOTES: The plant also is called "squaw-weed" because Indians made a drink from it that helped ease childbirth. A couple other species of ragwort or squaw-weed can be found in drier, upland habitats.



## *Smooth Yellow Violet*

*Viola pensylvanica*

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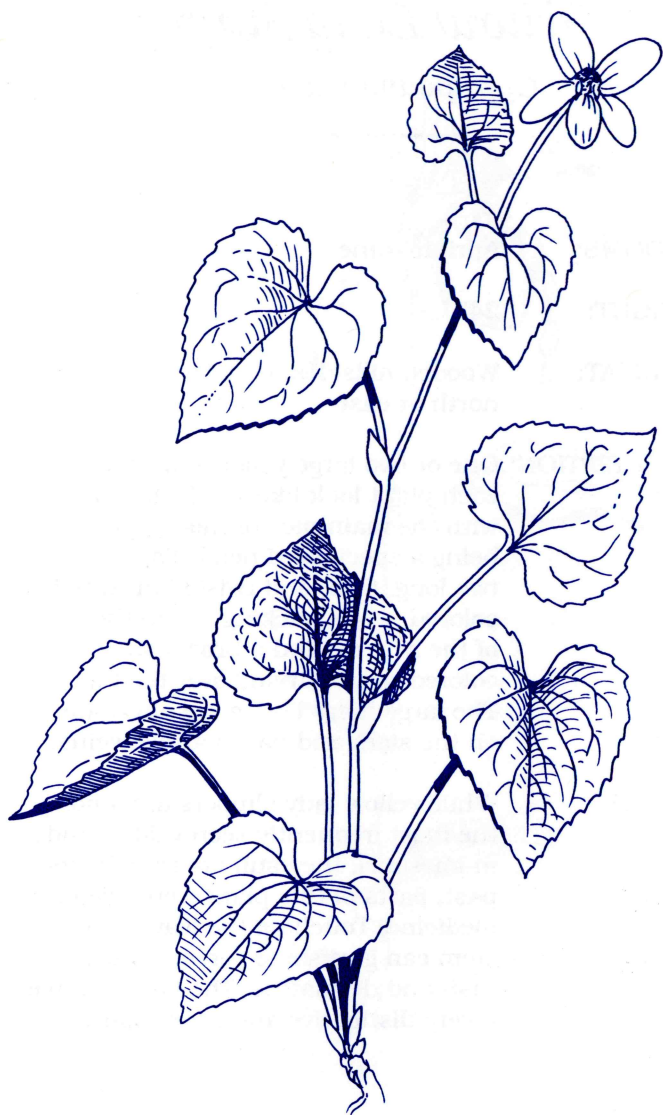
BLOOMS: March to May

HEIGHT: 12"

HABITAT: Rich, moist woods, especially in creek valleys

DESCRIPTION: Yellow flowers with purple veins have five petals that are grouped into three lower ones and two upper ones. The heart-shaped leaves appear at the base of the plant and along the stem.

NOTES: The group of three lower petals serve as a landing pad for flying insects coming to pollinate the flower. Like all true violets, the smooth yellow violet is an edible wild plant.





## *Yellow Lady Slipper*

*Cypripedium calceolus*

---

BLOOMS: April to June

HEIGHT: 24"

HABITAT: Wooded hillsides, usually facing north or east

DESCRIPTION: One or two large yellow flowers on each plant look like small slippers, with the main part of the slipper being a specialized petal. There are two long, thin, and twisted brownish colored petals sticking out to the side of the slipper, and a brownish colored sepal curving over the top. The large hairy leaves are alternate on the stem and have parallel veins.

NOTES: While yellow lady slippers are among the most frequently seen wild orchids in Missouri, they still are rare. In the past, parts of this plant were used for medicine. Touching the leaves and stem can give some persons a slight rash and dermatitis. The flowers have a very distinctive and sweet odor.



## *Shooting Star*

*Dodecatheon meadia*

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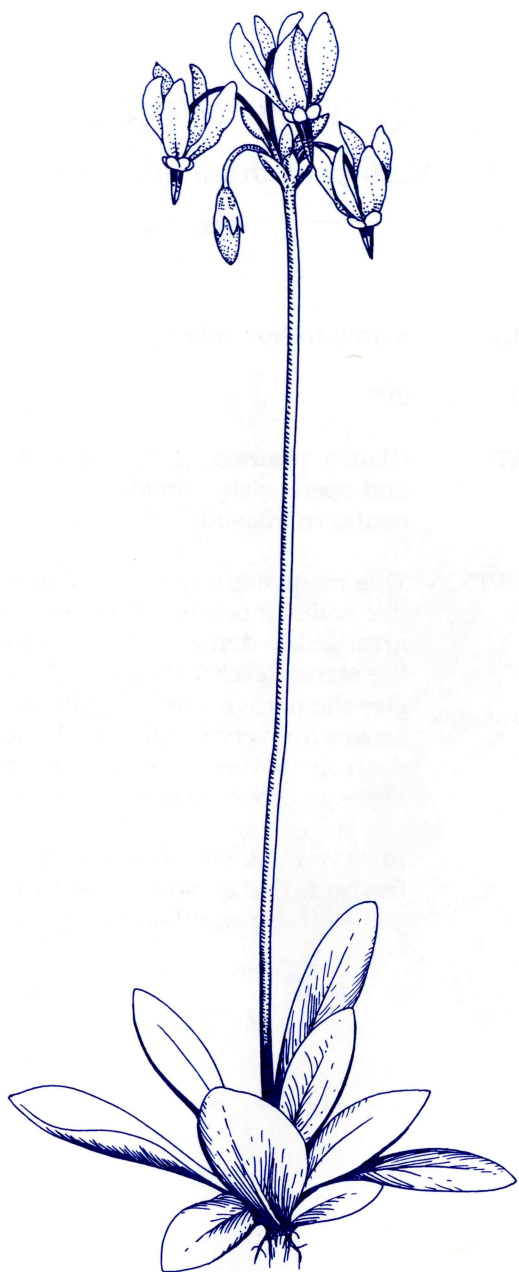
BLOOMS: April to June

HEIGHT: 24"

HABITAT: Glades, prairies, bluffs, open, rocky woodlands, and savannas

DESCRIPTION: The five pink, occasionally purple or white, petals are bent backwards while the yellow stamens point straight down, giving the flower a conelike shape. Small clusters of the flowers droop from the top of the leafless stem. All the oval or spatula-shaped leaves occur in a rosette at the base of the plant.

NOTES: The thin soil and open conditions where the shooting star grows make survival difficult. However, this plant is adapted to this harsh life.



## *Rose Verbena*

*Verbena canadensis*

---

BLOOMS: March to November

HEIGHT: 20"

HABITAT: Glades, prairies, bluffs, roadsides,  
and open, rocky woodlands in  
southern Missouri

DESCRIPTION: This magenta to red-violet flower has five notched petals, which are arranged in dense clusters on top of the stem. Several stems combine to give the plant a bushy appearance. Leaves are very deeply lobed and coarsely toothed. They are either opposite or whorled on the stem.

NOTES: Rose verbena flowers are very fragrant. Use all your senses when you examine wildflowers.





## *Indian Paint Brush*

*Castilleja coccinea*

---

BLOOMS: April to July

HEIGHT: 18"

HABITAT: Glades, prairies, and fens

DESCRIPTION: Bright red (rarely yellow) bracts hide the inconspicuous small, greenish-colored flowers. These bracts are actually modified leaves, and make the plant brightly colored. There is a rosette of leaves at the base of the plant, and alternate leaves on the stem. The leaves have long fingerlike lobes.

NOTES: Roots of the Indian paint brush are able to tap into the roots of other plants and extract their juices. Although Indian paint brush does not depend on this parasitic trait, it probably does help it get extra nutrients.



## *Fire Pink*

*Silene virginica*

---

BLOOMS: April to June

HEIGHT: 24"

HABITAT: Rocky woodlands in southern  
Missouri

DESCRIPTION: Flowers are brilliant red with five long, thin petals that are notched at the tip. The narrow, pointed leaves are opposite along the stem.

NOTES: Fire pink also is called red catchfly because the sticky stems sometimes capture small insects.







## *Wild Geranium*

*Geranium maculatum*

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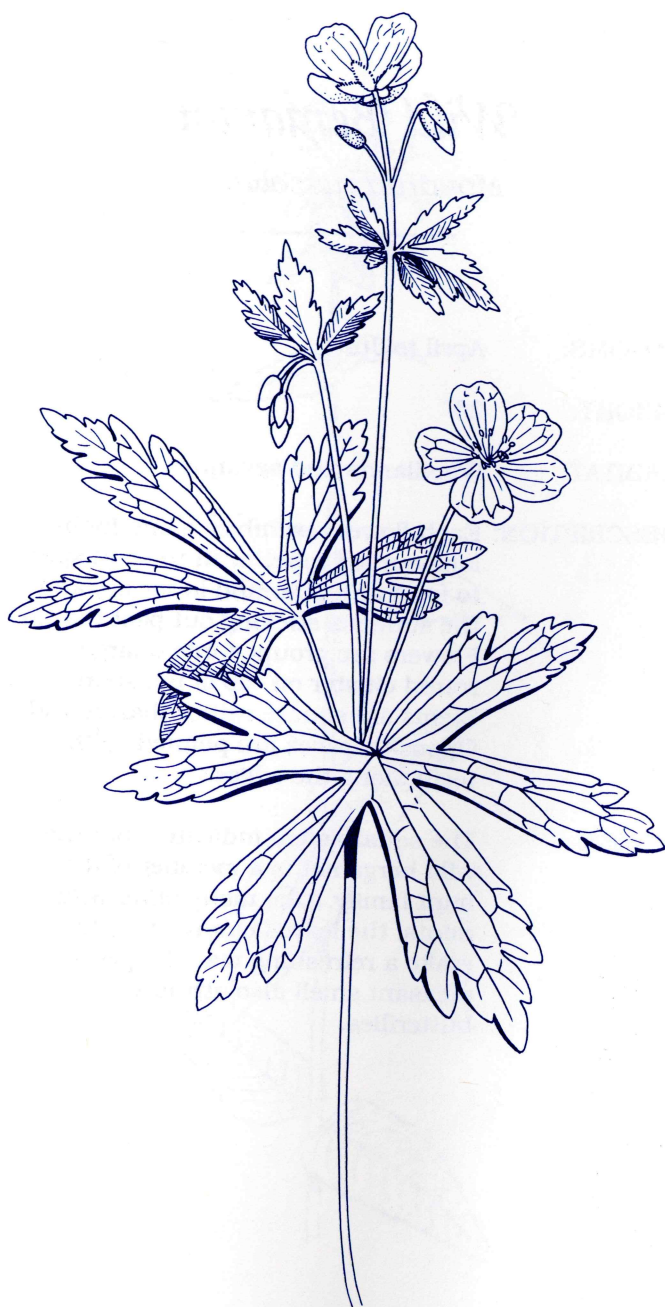
BLOOMS: April to June

HEIGHT: 24"

HABITAT: Woodlands and savannas

DESCRIPTION: The pink, or sometimes lavender, five-petaled flower is about one inch across. There are several flowers on top of each stem. The large leaves are opposite, palmate with five to seven lobes, and three to six inches across.

NOTES: Sometimes this plant is called cranesbill because the long, pointed fruits resemble a crane or heron holding its bill straight up. Indians and pioneers used parts of this plant to stop bleeding and to cure other ills.



## *Wild Bergamot*

*Monarda russeliana*

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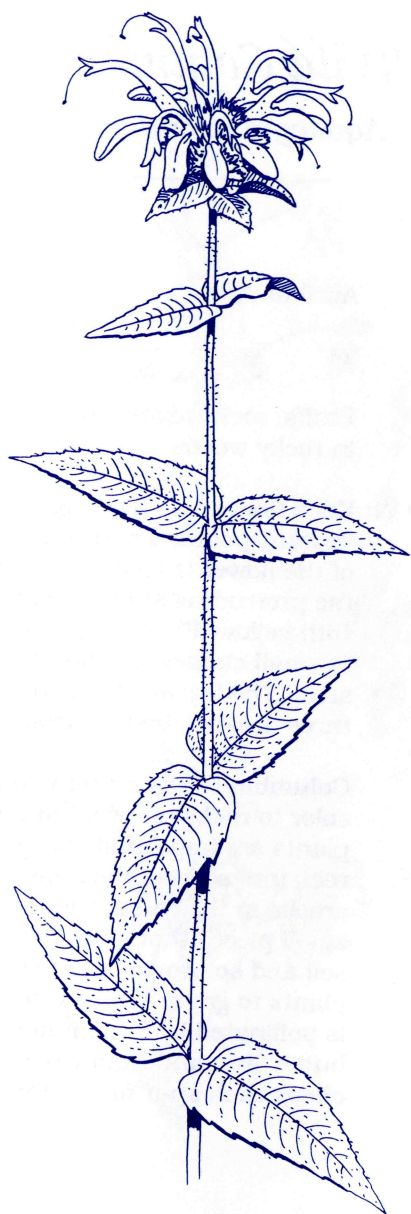
BLOOMS: April to June

HEIGHT: 24"

HABITAT: Woodlands and savannas

DESCRIPTION: Each flower resembles a one-inch-long curved tube, with the end split to form an upper and lower lip, and the stamens sticking out past the tip. Flowers are grouped into a large round cluster on top of the stem. Stems are square rather than round. Opposite leaves are pointed, with teeth along the edges.

NOTES: The square stem indicates that the wild bergamot is a member of the mint family. Like many other wild mints, the leaves can be used to make a refreshing tea. The plant's pleasant smell also attracts butterflies.



## *Wild Columbine*

*Aquilegia canadensis*

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BLOOMS: April to July

HEIGHT: 24"

HABITAT: Bluffs, rock ledges, and occasionally in rocky woods

DESCRIPTION: Each flower has five bright red upward-pointing spurs. The opening of the flower is edged with yellow and the protruding stamens are tipped with yellow. Flowers droop singly or in small clusters at the end of the stem. The leaves are divided into three deeply lobed leaflets.

NOTES: Columbine adds a pretty touch of color to rocks on which it grows. The plants are important for turning the rock into soil: As the roots grow into cracks in the rocks, they break off small pieces that gradually become soil and so provide a place for other plants to grow. The columbine flower is pollinated by certain moths, butterflies, and hummingbirds, which check each spur for nectar.





## *Violet Wood Sorrel*

*Oxalis violacea*

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BLOOMS: April to July: sometimes again in autumn

HEIGHT: 6"

HABITAT: Rocky, open woodlands; glades; bluffs; prairies; and roadsides

DESCRIPTION: The small five-petaled flowers range in color from lavender to pink to almost white. Leaves, which arise from the base of the plant, are divided into three heart-shaped leaflets connected at their points.

NOTES: The sour-tasting leaves account for this plant also being called "sour grass" and "pickle grass." When eaten in the spring, this plant was believed to be a tonic for the blood. It is poisonous when eaten in large amounts.



## *Woolly Blue Violet*

*Viola soraria*

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BLOOMS: March to June: sometimes again in late fall

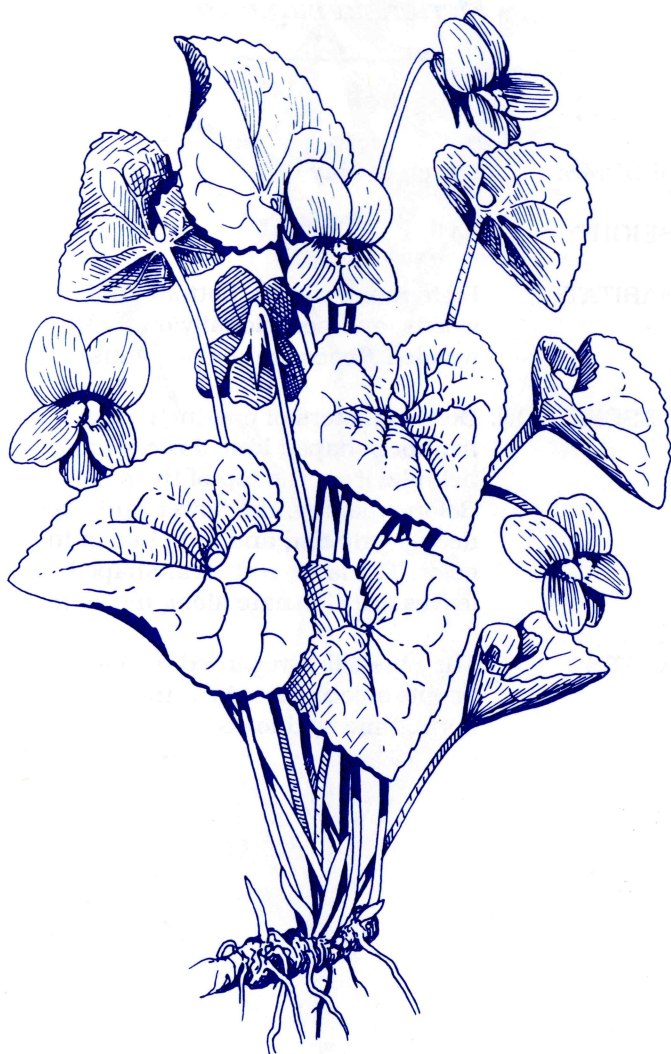
HEIGHT: 10"

HABITAT: Rich, moist woods, especially in creek valleys

DESCRIPTION: This species of violet has deep blue colored flowers, in the characteristic violet shape of three lower petals extending forward and a pair of upper petals curved backward. The heart-shaped leaves all arise from the base of the plant. These small plants may grow in groups to form a thick carpet on the forest floor.

NOTES: Violets are very common edible wild plants. Parts of the plant can be used for green salads, jelly, drinks, or can just be eaten raw. Like many edible wild plants, they are very nutritious and high in vitamins.







## *Bluebell*

*Mertensia virginica*

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BLOOMS: March to May

HEIGHT: 24"

HABITAT: Rich, moist woods, bottom-land woods, and occasionally on rocky, wooded slopes and below bluffs

DESCRIPTION: Dense clusters of one-inch-long, trumpet-shaped blue flowers hang bell-like from the top of the stem. Before opening, the flower buds look deeply wrinkled and are pinkish in color. The large soft, oval-shaped leaves are alternate along the stem.

NOTES: The bluebell is regarded by many people as our most beautiful springtime wildflower.



## *Wild Sweet William*

*Phlox divaricata*

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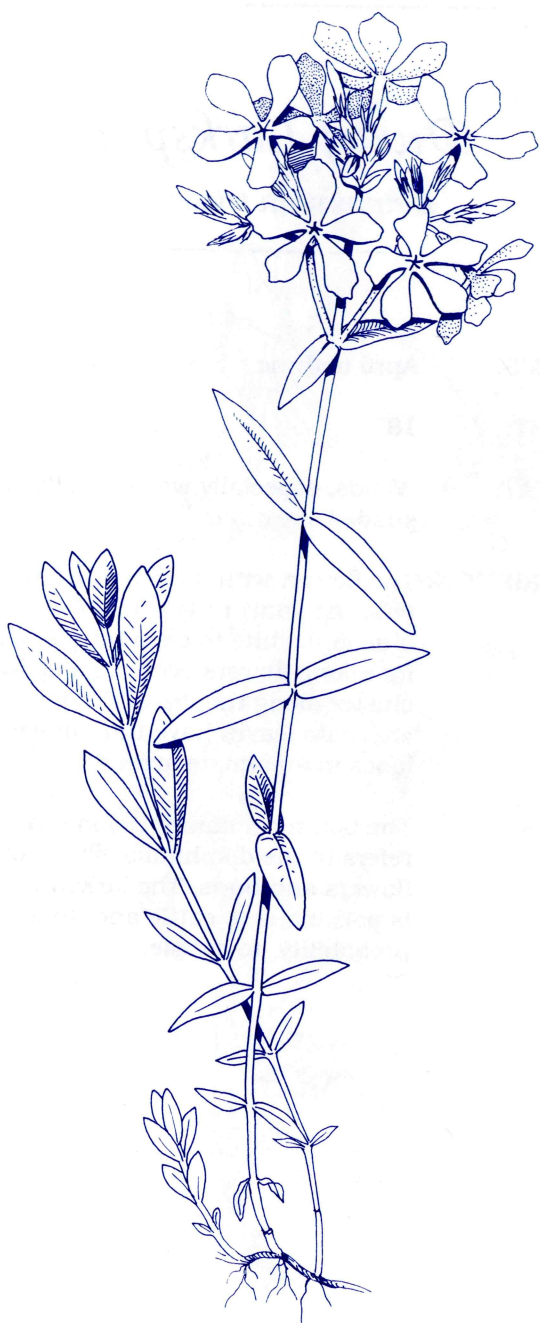
BLOOMS: March to June

HEIGHT: 12"

HABITAT: Woods, especially wooded valleys

DESCRIPTION: The flower's five petallike lobes are joined at the base to form a slender tube. Forming a cluster at the top of the stem, the flowers are usually blue, but occasionally may vary from purple to almost white. Before they open, the flower buds have a distinctive twisted appearance. Leaves are thin, pointed, and opposite along the stem. Several leafy shoots can be found spreading out from the base of the plant.

NOTES: Wild sweet william actually is a member of the phlox family and not related to the garden plant called sweet william.



## *Dwarf Larkspur*

*Delphinium tricornes*

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BLOOMS: April to June

HEIGHT: 18"

HABITAT: Woods, especially wooded valleys and shaded savannas

DESCRIPTION: The flower, with a large upward-pointing spur, ranges in color from blue and white to deep purple. One-inch-long flowers occur in a spikelike cluster along the top of the stem. The alternate leaves have thin, fingerlike lobes in a palmate arrangement.

NOTES: The botanical name "Delphinium" refers to the dolphinlike shape of the flowers and buds. The larkspur plant is poisonous to cattle and, in all probability, to people.





## *Birdsfoot Violet*

*Viola pedata*

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BLOOMS: April to June: sometimes again in the fall

HEIGHT: 4"

HABITAT: Rocky, open woods; bluffs, glades, and prairies

DESCRIPTION: Two varieties occur in Missouri— one with flowers that are all light blue, and the other with distinctively two-toned flowers that have light blue lower petals and deep purple upper petals. Flowers on the birdsfoot violet appear very large for such a small plant. The leaves, which all arise from the base of the stem, are very deeply lobed, resembling the shape of the bird's foot.

NOTES: Also called wild pansies, birdsfoot violets often are used by Missouri children in a game in which the two-toned flowers are "roosters" and the plain blue ones are "hens." Parts of this plant has been used as a medicine and a laxative.



## *Jacob's Ladder*

*Polemonium reptans*

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BLOOMS: March to June

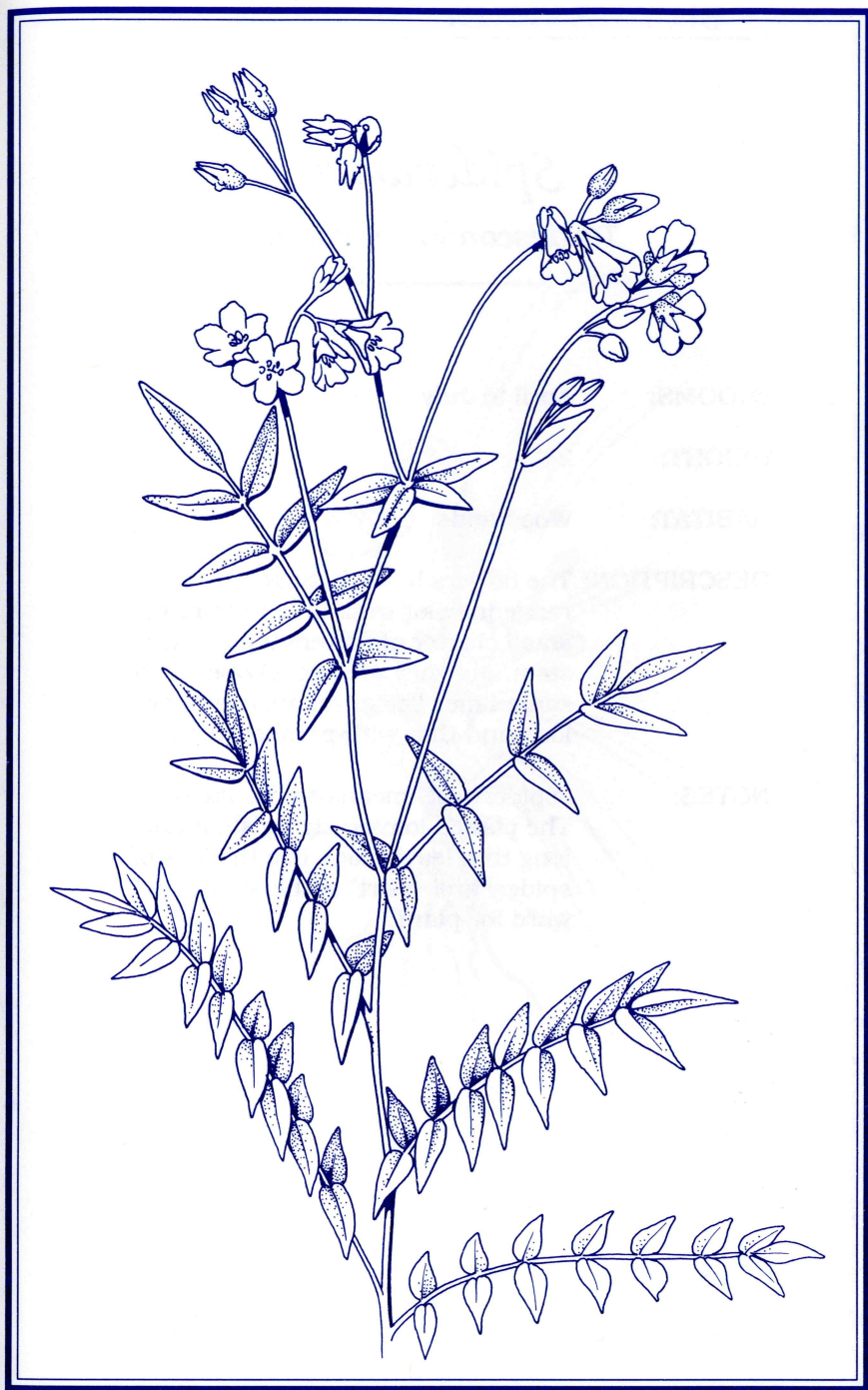
HEIGHT: 15"

HABITAT: Rich woods, especially in creek valleys

DESCRIPTION: Light blue and bell-shaped flowers that have five petals are clustered loosely along the tip of the stem. Leaves, having up to 17 leaflets in a pinnate arrangement, are alternate on the stem.

NOTES: The ladderlike arrangement of the leaflets accounts for the plant's name. Parts of the plant formerly were used for medicine.







## *Spiderwort*

*Tradescantia virginiana*

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BLOOMS: April to July

HEIGHT: 24"

HABITAT: Woodlands

DESCRIPTION: The flowers have three petals that range in color from blue to purple. A small cluster of flowers tops off the stem, but they are not all open at the same time. The alternate leaves are long and thin with parallel veins.

NOTES: "Spiderwort" means spiderlike plant. The plant's jointed zigzag stem and long thin leaves look like the legs of a spider, and "wort" is the old English word for plant.



## *Virginia Waterleaf*

*Hydrophyllum canadense*

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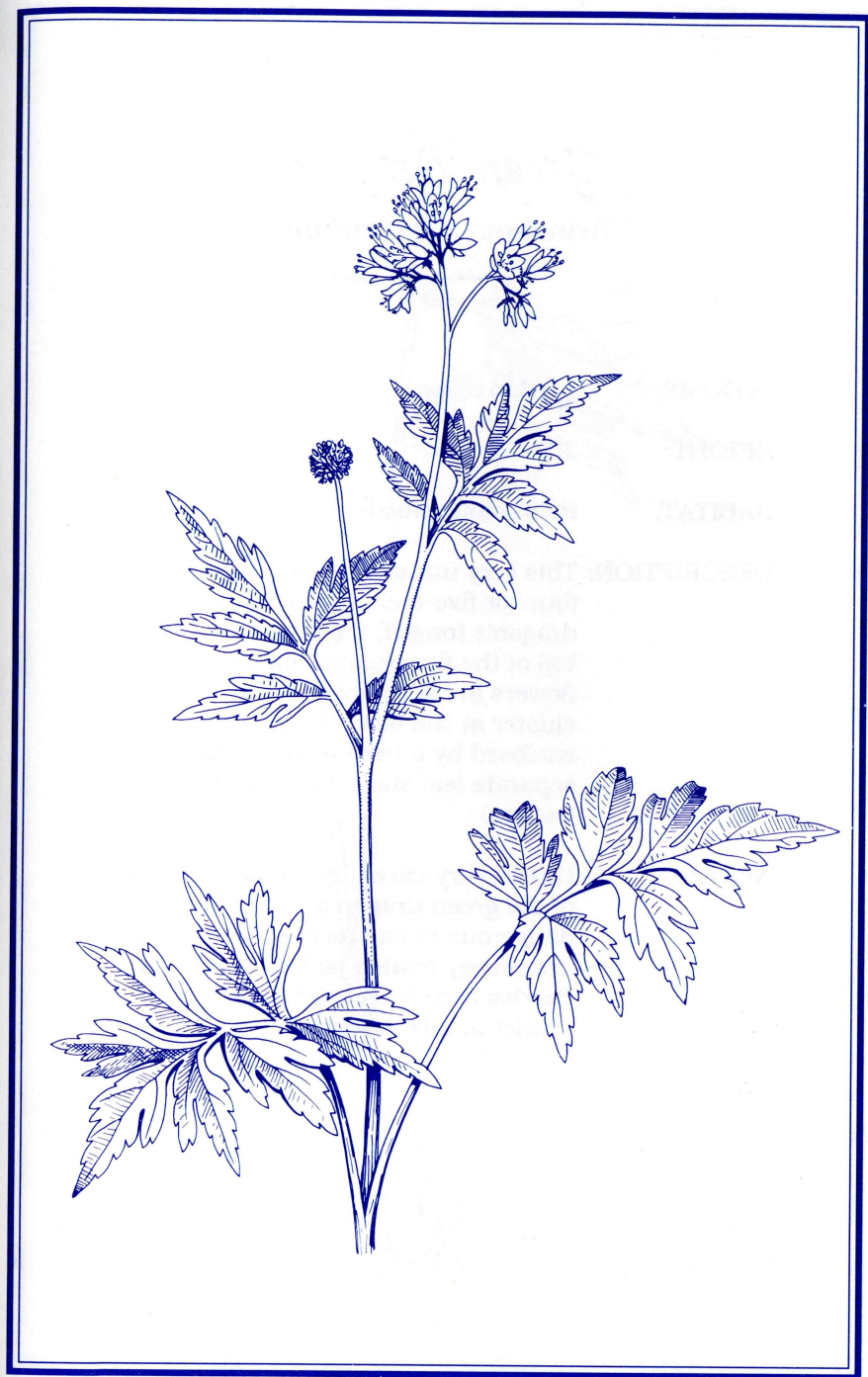
BLOOMS: April to July

HEIGHT: 24"

HABITAT: Rich woods, stream valleys, and at the base of bluffs

DESCRIPTION: Small, pale blue flowers are arranged in clusters. Large leaves with three to seven lobes alternate along the stem.

NOTES: Parts of the plant are edible as a cooked green vegetable. There are two other closely related species of waterleaf. One has leaves with light colored markings, making it look water spotted.



## *Green Dragon*

*Arisaema dracontium*

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BLOOMS: April to June

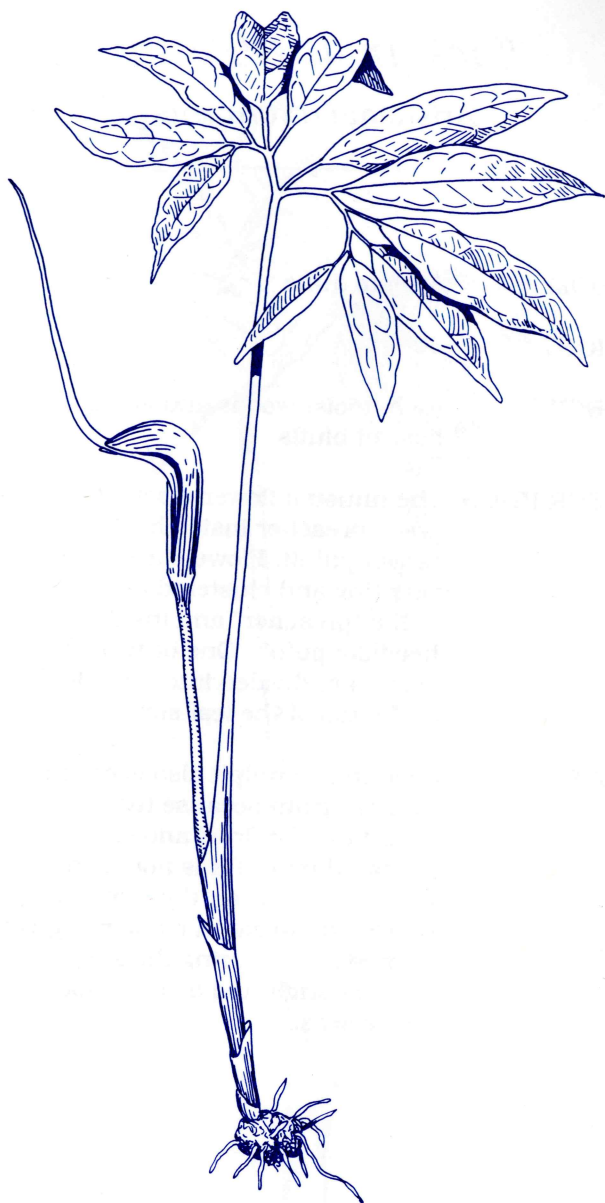
HEIGHT: 36"

HABITAT: Rich, moist woods

DESCRIPTION: This very unusual flower looks like a four- or five-inch long dragon, or dragon's tongue, sticking out of the top of the flowering stem. The actual flowers are very tiny, and occur as a cluster at the base of the "dragon", enclosed by a leaflike hood. The separate leaf stalk has three to 15 leaflets.

NOTES: Unless very carefully prepared, roots of the green dragon are very dangerous to eat, as are the roots of the closely related jack-in-the-pulpit. Berries turn from bright green to scarlet in late summer.





## *Jack-in-the-Pulpit*

*Arisaema atrorubens*

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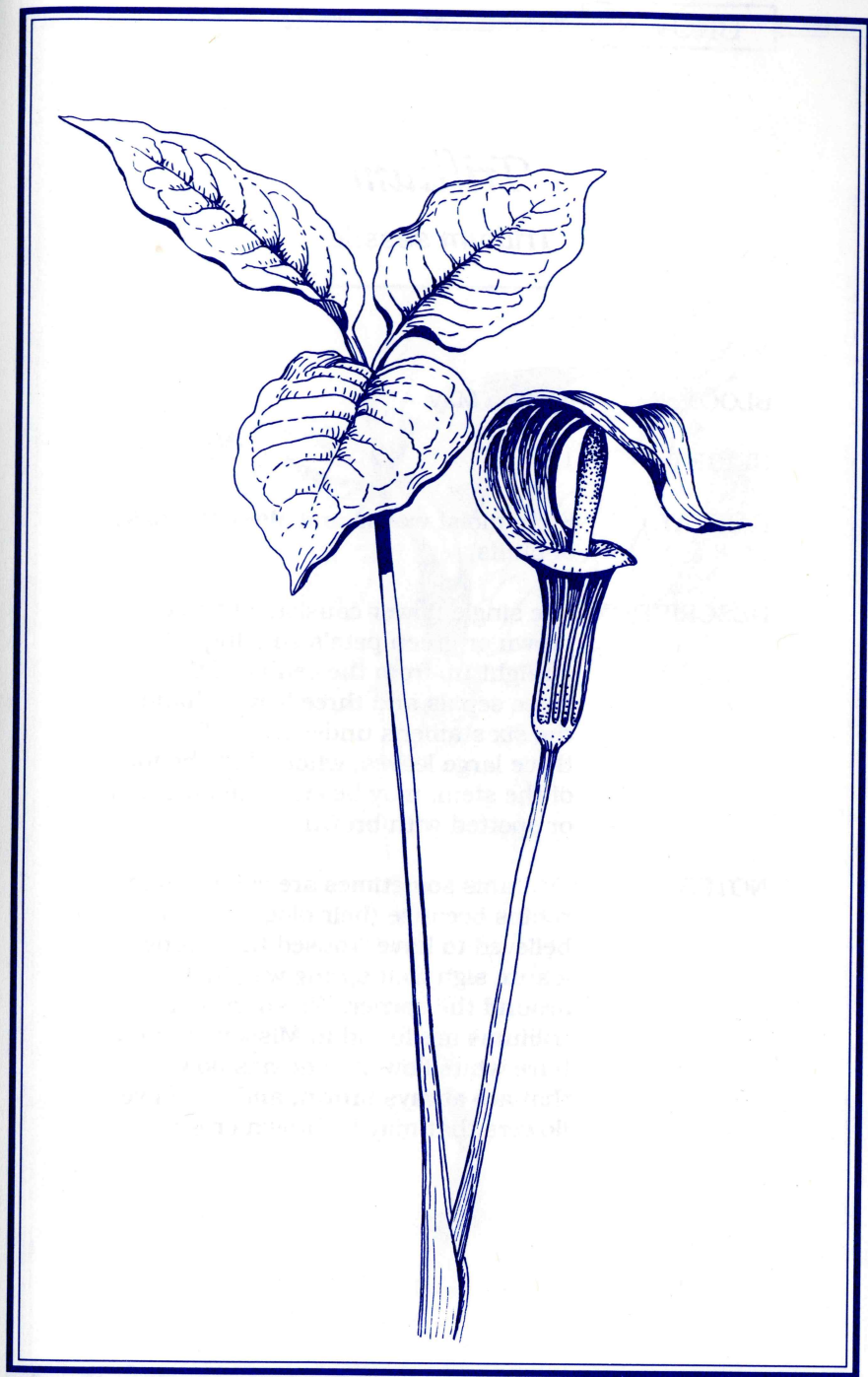
BLOOMS: April to June

HEIGHT: 30"

HABITAT: Rich, moist woods and along the base of bluffs

DESCRIPTION: The unusual flower resembles a little green preacher inside his green or brown pulpit. Flowers are actually very tiny and clustered at the bottom of the "preacher" and inside the hoodlike pulpit. One or two large leaves are divided into three leaflets at the top of the leaf stem.

NOTES: Jack-in-the-pulpit also is called Indian turnip because the Indians would eat the dried and carefully prepared root. If it is not fixed properly, however, the root is very dangerous to eat. A cluster of green berries forms during the summer, turning bright red as they ripen later in the season.



## *Trillium*

### *Trillium sessile*

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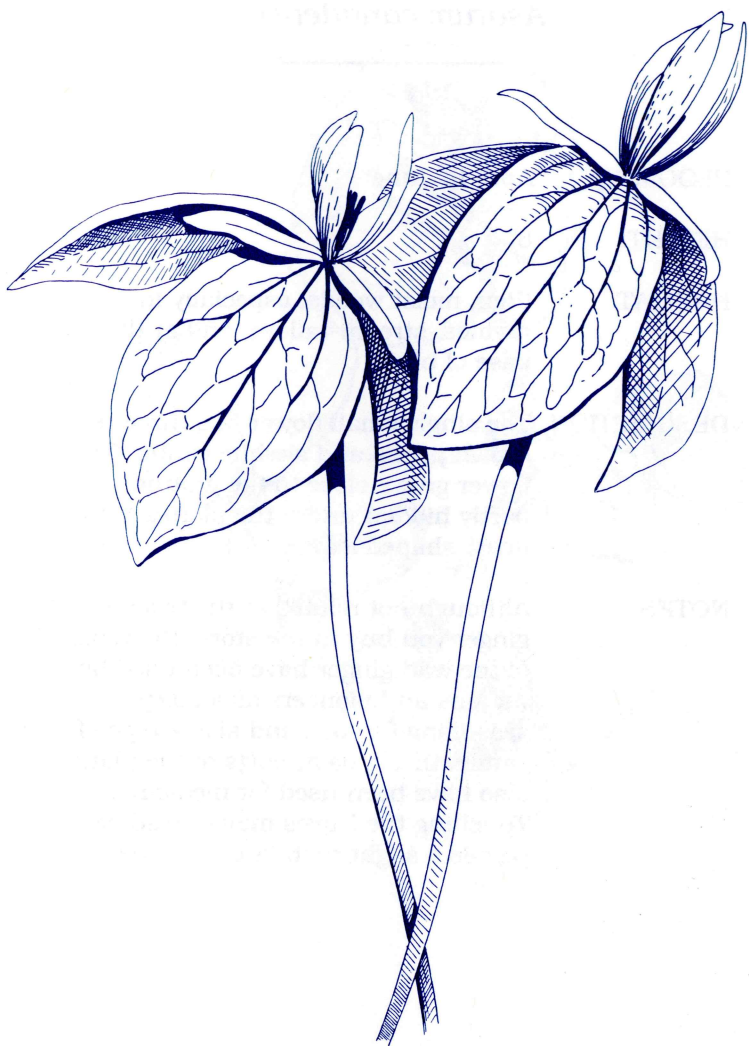
BLOOMS: April to May

HEIGHT: 12"

HABITAT: Rich, moist woods and along the base of bluffs

DESCRIPTION: The single flower consists of three brown or green petals sticking straight up from the center of the three sepals and three leaves, hiding the six stamens underneath. The three large leaves, whorled at the top of the stem, may be either plain green or spotted with brown.

NOTES: Trilliums sometimes are called wake robins because their blooming was believed to have "roused the robins," a sure sign that spring was just around the corner. Six species of trilliums are found in Missouri: Three have white flowers, one has flowers that are always brown, and two have flowers that may be brown or green.





## *Wild Ginger*

*Asarum canadense*

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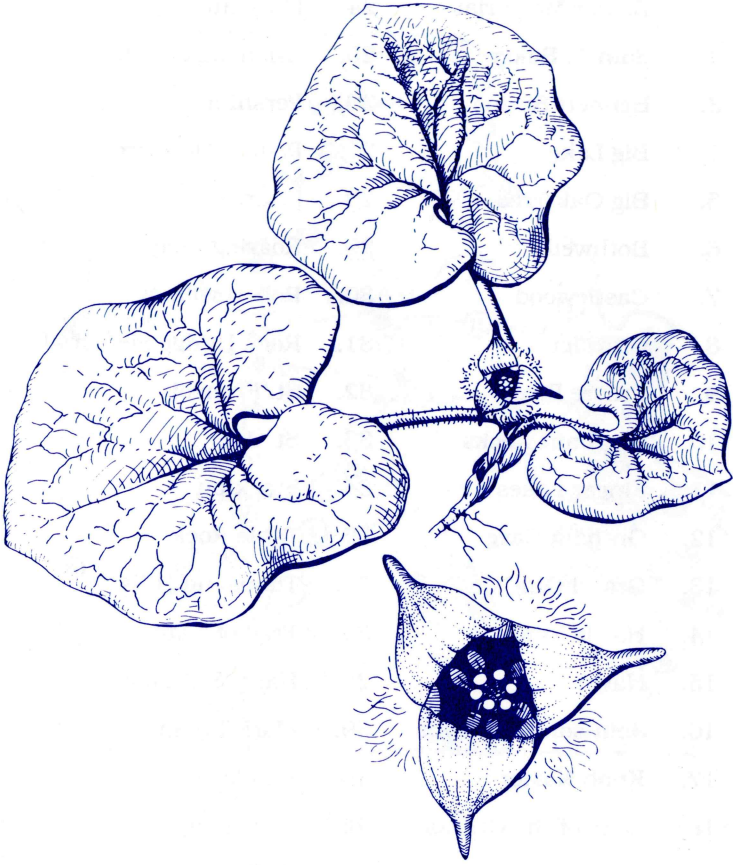
BLOOMS: April to June

HEIGHT: 8"

HABITAT: Rich, moist woods; especially in ravines, stream valleys, and at the base of bluffs

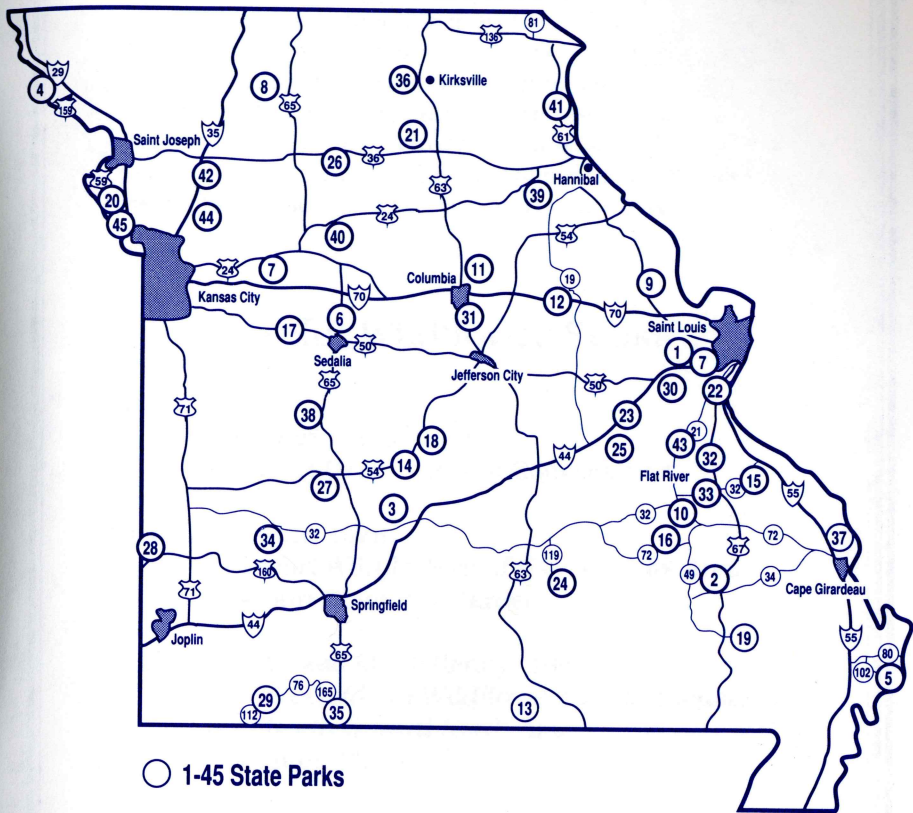
DESCRIPTION: The single small flower has three red-brown petals and a white center. The flower grows close to the ground, partly hidden under the plant's large, heart-shaped leaves.

NOTES: Although not related to the true ginger you buy in the store, the roots of the wild ginger have been used by Indians and pioneers as a spicy seasoning for food and also a type of candy. In the past, parts of the plant also have been used for medicine. Touching the leaves may give some people a slight rash or dermatitis.



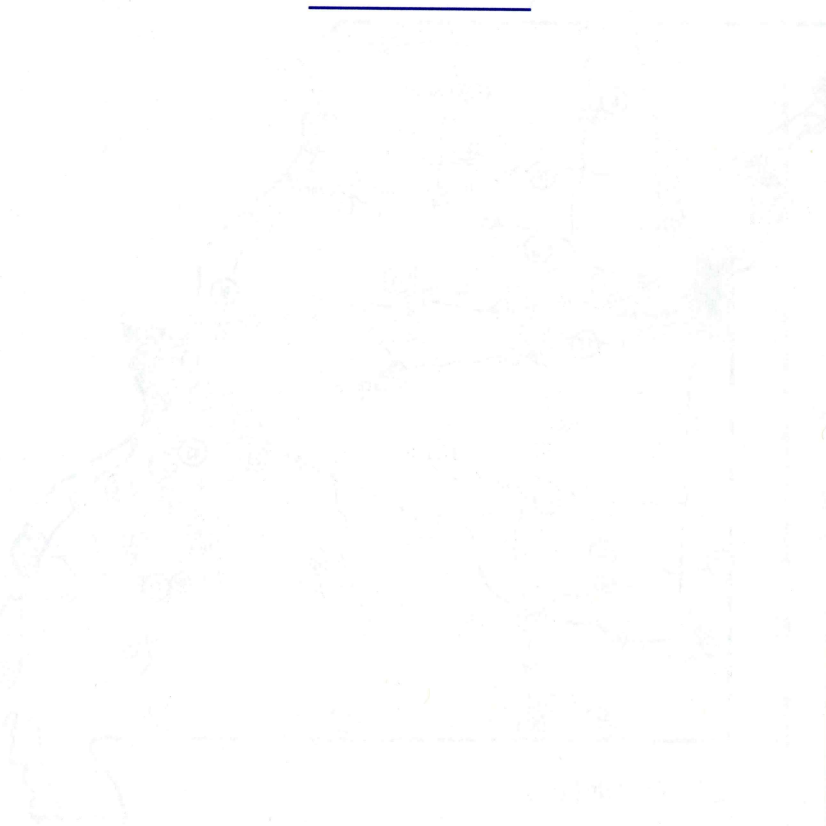
## Missouri State Parks

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial | 23. Meramec              |
| 2. Sam A. Baker                  | 24. Montauk              |
| 3. Bennett Spring                | 25. Onondaga Cave        |
| 4. Big Lake                      | 26. Pershing             |
| 5. Big Oak Tree                  | 27. Pomme de Terre       |
| 6. Bothwell                      | 28. Prairie              |
| 7. Castlewood                    | 29. Roaring River        |
| 8. Crowder                       | 30. Robertsville         |
| 9. Cuivre River                  | 31. Rock Bridge Memorial |
| 10. Elephant Rocks               | 32. St. Francois         |
| 11. Finger Lakes                 | 33. St. Joe              |
| 12. Graham Cave                  | 34. Stockton             |
| 13. Grand Gulf                   | 35. Table Rock           |
| 14. Ha Ha Tonka                  | 36. Thousand Hills       |
| 15. Hawn                         | 37. Trail of Tears       |
| 16. Johnson's Shut-Ins           | 38. Harry S Truman       |
| 17. Knob Noster                  | 39. Mark Twain           |
| 18. Lake of the Ozarks           | 40. Van Meter            |
| 19. Lake Wappapello              | 41. Wakonda              |
| 20. Lewis and Clark              | 42. Wallace              |
| 21. Long Branch                  | 43. Washington           |
| 22. Mastodon                     | 44. Watkins Mill         |
|                                  | 45. Weston Bend          |



## Field Notes

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## Flowers in a State Park

A growing wildflower is one of nature's most fantastic creations. The flowers add a touch of beauty to the woodlands and perform the very important function of producing seeds for next year's wildflowers. The plants and seeds provide food for many of our wild animals. Without these wildflowers, the world would be a much duller place to live. Yet some people are so thoughtless that they will pick these flowers needlessly and rob everyone else of their beauty. In all Missouri state parks, the wildflowers, like the trees and wild animals, are protected so that everyone can enjoy them.

## Useful Wildflower Books

Denison, E. 1978.

*Missouri Wildflowers.*

Missouri Department of Conservation.

Eisendrath, E.R. 1978,

*Missouri Wildflowers of the St. Louis Area.*

Missouri Botanical Garden.

Peterson, R.T., and M. McKenny. 1968.

*A Field Guide to Wildflowers of Northeastern and North-central North America.*

Houghton Mifflin.

Phillips, J. 1979.

*Wild Edibles of Missouri.*

Missouri Department of Conservation.

Steyermark, J.A. 1940.

*Spring Flora of Missouri.*

Lucas Publishing Co., Columbia, Mo.



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